NATIONAL ELDER JUSTICE PROSECUTORS SUMMIT

AGENDA

DAY 1 — WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2026

8:30 AM – 5:20 PM

CLE accreditation is being sought for this program. Information regarding approved jurisdictions and available credit will be provided as it becomes available.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Summit sessions will be held in the Auditorium.

TIME	SPEAKERS	SESSION TITLE & ABSTRACT
8:30 AM – 8:50 AM	**Andy Mao**, JD, National Elder Justice Coordinator, Deputy Director in the Civil Fraud Section, U.S. Department of Justice **Trent McCotter**, JD, Acting Deputy Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice	**Welcome & Opening Remarks**
8:50 AM – 9:00 AM	**Chantelle Smith**, JD, Prosecutor Programs Lead, Consultant to U.S. Department of Justice Elder Justice Initiative (EJI) and Summit Organizer **Nelson Bunn**, Executive Director, National District Attorneys Association (NDAA)	**Moving Forward Together: Strengthening Elder Abuse Prosecutions** This opening session will highlight key findings from recent EJI and NDAA efforts and provide a snapshot of the challenges, trends, and opportunities identified by prosecutors across the country. The discussion will help frame the conversations and practical strategies explored throughout the Summit.

TIME	SPEAKERS	SESSION TITLE & ABSTRACT
9:00 AM – 10:15 AM	**Page Ulrey**, JD, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, King County Prosecutor's Office, WA **Julia Hiner**, MD, Associate Professor, Geriatric and Palliative Medicine, UTHealth Houston, TX **Kristoffer Rhoads**, PhD, Clinical Neuropsychologist/ Professor of Neurology, University of Washington School of Medicine, WA	**Decision-Making Capacity & Consent: Building Stronger Criminal Cases** This session will explore decision-making capacity and consent in the context of criminal elder abuse cases. In some cases involving financial exploitation, sexual abuse, or neglect, the victim may appear to have consented to the conduct. This session examines how diminished decision-making capacity can affect the evaluation of consent and how clinical assessments can inform investigation, charging, and prosecution decisions. A prosecutor will facilitate a practical discussion with clinicians focused on applying these concepts in criminal cases. • Understanding the relationship between decision-making capacity and consent • How clinicians assess decision-making capacity • Retrospective assessments of decision-making capacity • When virtual assessments are appropriate and their limitations • Recognizing when a decision-making capacity assessment is appropriate during an investigation • Evaluating consent in light of diminished decision-making capacity • Using capacity evidence in investigation, charging decisions, and case strategy • Practical challenges in obtaining decision-making capacity assessments
10:15 AM – 10:30 AM		**Networking Break**

TIME	SPEAKERS	SESSION TITLE & ABSTRACT
10:30 AM – 11:45 AM	**The Honorable Celene Gogerty**, District Court Judge, Iowa Judicial Branch, IA **Angie Rolando**, JD, Assistant Attorney General, Montana Department of Justice, Prosecution Services Bureau – Elder Justice, Office of the Montana Attorney General, MT **Amy Seely**, JD, Sr. Assistant Attorney General, Oregon Department of Justice - Criminal Justice Division, OR **Debbie Feinstein**, JD, Chief, Special Victims Division, State's Attorney's Office for Montgomery County, MD **Catheryn Koss**, JD, PhD, Associate Professor, California State University, Sacramento, CA	**Preserving the Case: Navigating Victim & Evidentiary Challenges** Victim participation can change over the course of an investigation or prosecution. Victims may become reluctant to participate, alter their level of engagement, lose decision-making capacity, or become unavailable altogether. This session will explore why participation changes, the practical challenges these changes create, and strategies prosecutors can use to preserve evidence, strengthen cases, and prepare for the possibility that victim participation may evolve over time. • When to consider early statement preservation • Legal and evidentiary considerations • Ethical considerations • Victim participation that changes over time • Documentation and investigative strategies • Coordination with law enforcement, clinicians, and victim services • Charging decisions when participation is limited • Maintaining case integrity while respecting victim autonomy
11:45 AM – 12:30 PM		**Lunch (On your own)**
12:30 PM – 1:15 PM	**Scott Pirrello (discussion facilitator)**, JD, Deputy District Attorney and Head of Elder Abuse Prosecutions, San Diego County District Attorney's Office, CA **Elizabeth Bloemen (discussion facilitator)**, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Geriatric Medicine, Director of Vulnerable Elder Protection, Services and Advocacy Team (VESPA), University of Colorado School of Medicine, CO **Kailyn Heston (discussion facilitator)**, JD, Assistant County Attorney, Polk County Attorney's Office, IA	**Prosecutor Exchange: What Would You Do?** ***Conference Room*** *Attendees may bring their lunch into the Conference Room.* No two elder abuse cases are exactly alike, and there is rarely a single right answer. In this interactive session, attendees will work through layered case scenarios drawn from challenges commonly encountered in elder abuse cases. Attendees will have the opportunity to weigh in on what they would do and hear how prosecutors from different jurisdictions approach the issues. As the discussion unfolds, faculty and attendees will explore the factors that shape investigative decisions, charging choices, and case strategy.
1:15 PM – 1:30 PM		**Networking Break**

TIME	SPEAKERS	SESSION TITLE & ABSTRACT
1:30 PM – 2:15 PM	**Chantelle Smith (moderator)**, JD, Prosecutor Programs Lead, Consultant to U.S. Department of Justice Elder Justice Initiative **Tara Patet**, JD, Senior Prosecutor (Ret.), St. Paul City Attorney's Office, MN **Arlene Markarian**, JD, Coordinator, Safe Observant Seniors Program (SOS) & Nassau County Elder Abuse Enhanced Multidisciplinary Team, retired Chief of Elder Abuse Units, Brooklyn & Nassau District Attorney's Offices, NY **L. Dan Buchanan**, JD, Assistant District Attorney General, Special Felony Prosecutor, Vulnerable Adult Protection & Investigation Team coordinator, 30th Judicial District of Tennessee, Shelby County District Attorney General's Office, TN	**At the Table: Balancing Collaboration & Independence in Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs)** MDTs can provide valuable opportunities for information sharing, coordination, and problem-solving. At the same time, prosecutors often have questions about confidentiality, disclosure obligations, independence, role boundaries, and the practical value of participation. This session will explore the issues that can make prosecutors hesitant to engage in MDTs and provide an opportunity for a discussion about how experienced prosecutors approach these challenges. Through audience polling and panel discussion, participants will examine common concerns, discuss differing perspectives, and explore practical approaches to meaningful participation while maintaining prosecutorial independence. • Confidentiality and information sharing • Disclosure and discovery considerations • Maintaining prosecutorial independence • Access to information prosecutors might not otherwise obtain • Time and resource considerations • Defining the prosecutor's role within an MDT • Common concerns and misconceptions about MDT participation • Approaches to effective and ethical engagement
2:15 PM – 2:30 PM		**Networking Break**

TIME	SPEAKERS	SESSION TITLE & ABSTRACT
2:30 PM – 3:45 PM	**Jill Hollander**, JD, Chief Deputy District Attorney, Fulton County District Attorney's Office, GA **Kyndra Lundquist**, JD, Assistant United States Attorney, Northern District of Iowa**,** IA **Charles P. Golbert**, JD, Cook County Public Guardian, Office of the Cook County Public Guardian, IL	**Authority, Control, & Abuse: Prosecuting Misuse of Guardianships and Powers of Attorney** Cases involving suspected misuse of guardianships and powers of attorney often require criminal prosecutors to understand civil law, including court orders, fiduciary duty and authority, and ongoing guardianship or other civil proceedings. Conduct may appear legally authorized, family members may assert competing claims of authority, and evidence may be located within civil court files or held by attorneys and fiduciaries. Bringing together state and federal prosecution perspectives with the insight of an experienced public guardian, this session will examine how legal authority can be used to facilitate exploitation, how prosecutors can distinguish civil disputes and fiduciary breaches from criminal conduct, and when state or federal investigation and charges may be appropriate. • Understanding civil orders and fiduciary authority • Recognizing when legal authority is being used to facilitate exploitation • Distinguishing civil disputes and fiduciary breaches from criminal conduct • Obtaining and using evidence from civil proceedings • Working with civil attorneys, fiduciaries, and courts • Addressing family dynamics and competing claims of authority • Evaluating state and federal charging options and case strategy
3:45 PM – 4:00 PM		**Networking Break**

TIME	SPEAKERS	SESSION TITLE & ABSTRACT
4:00 PM – 5:15 PM	**Jordan M. Ford**, JD, Chief Financial Crimes Resource Prosecutor, North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys, NC **Will Johnson**, JD, MTS, Adult Abuse, Neglect, and Exploitation Resource Prosecutor, Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia, GA **Stacey Wood**, PhD ABPP, Clinical Geropsychologist, Molly Mason Jones Professor of Psychology, Scripps College, CA	**Rethinking Consent: Undue Influence in Criminal Cases** Undue influence can change how a case looks — and how it is evaluated. Understanding how undue influence works—and how to identify and explain it—can strengthen case assessment, evidence development, and prosecution strategy. This session will explore practical approaches to recognizing undue influence and incorporating it into criminal investigations and prosecutions. A forensic neuropsychologist and experienced prosecutors will discuss how undue influence presents in real-world cases, how clinicians assess it, and how prosecutors can effectively investigate and address undue influence in criminal cases. • Understanding undue influence in elder abuse cases • How undue influence can appear as consent • Indicators and sources of evidence • Dependency, isolation, and relationship dynamics • Forensic assessment of undue influence • Working with experts to understand and prove undue influence • Effects of undue influence on victim participation • Incorporating undue influence into case strategy
5:15 PM – 5:20 PM	**Andy Mao**, JD, National Elder Justice Coordinator, Deputy Director in the Civil Fraud Section, U.S. Department of Justice	**Wrap Up**
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM		**Informal Networking Gathering** *Hyatt Place National Mall Rooftop*

NATIONAL ELDER JUSTICE PROSECUTORS SUMMIT

AGENDA

DAY 2 — THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2026

8:30 AM – 2:00 PM

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TIME	SPEAKERS	SESSION TITLE & ABSTRACT
8:30 AM – 8:40 AM	**Andy Mao**, JD, National Elder Justice Coordinator, Deputy Director in the Civil Fraud Section, U.S. Department of Justice	**Welcome & Recap**

TIME	SPEAKERS	SESSION TITLE & ABSTRACT
8:40 AM – 9:55 AM	**Erik Podhora**, JD, Senior Deputy Prosecuting Attorney, Elder Justice Team Leader, Clark County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, WA **Jennifer Blackmon**, JD, Assistant State Attorney, Broward Office of the State Attorney, Florida's 17th Judicial Circuit, FL **Karen (Webber) Skuse**, CPA, CFE, Forensic Accountant and AgeTech Founder, Tall Pines Advisory, LLC, NY **Charles P. Golbert**, JD, Cook County Public Guardian, Office of the Cook County Public Guardian, IL **Elizabeth Bloemen (discussion facilitator)**, MD, MPH, Assistant Professor of Geriatric Medicine, Director of Vulnerable Elder Protection, Services and Advocacy Team (VESPA), University of Colorado School of Medicine, CO **Catheryn Koss**, JD, PhD, Associate Professor, California State University, Sacramento, CA	**Bringing in the Experts: When, Why, & How** Elder abuse cases often involve issues that extend beyond the expertise of prosecutors and investigators. Whether the question involves clinical issues, financial analysis, victim behavior and response, fiduciary duties, or another specialized field, knowing when to involve an expert—and how to work together effectively—can strengthen both the investigation and prosecution. This multidisciplinary panel shares practical guidance on identifying the right expertise, accessing experts, collaborating effectively, and using expert opinions to build stronger cases. • Recognizing when expert involvement may strengthen a case • Determining what type of expertise is needed based on the facts • Understanding how different types of experts can strengthen an investigation or prosecution • Providing experts with the information they need to assist an investigation or prosecution • Timing considerations and practical challenges in engaging experts • Incorporating expert opinions into charging decisions, case strategy, and trial preparation
9:55 AM – 10:05 AM		**Networking Break**

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<tr><th>TIME</th><th>SPEAKERS</th><th>SESSION TITLE & ABSTRACT</th></tr>
<tr><td>10:05 AM – 11:05 AM</td><td> Pete Staffell, Principal, Roll & Flow | Scam Prevention Specialists, UK Chantelle Smith (attorney facilitator), JD, Prosecutor Programs Lead, Consultant to U.S. Department of Justice Elder Justice Initiative </td><td> Victim Behavior & Financial Exploitation: A Behavioralist’s Perspective Financial exploitation cases can present unique challenges when victims remain engaged with perpetrators, decline to participate, or continue sending money despite intervention. Understanding victim behavior in these cases can help prosecutors assess conduct, guide investigations, and develop more effective strategies. Drawing on behavioral science and practical experience, this session will explore how understanding victim behavior can shape investigative and prosecutorial approaches. Behavioral dynamics in financial exploitation cases Persuasion and influence techniques used by perpetrators Rapport and trust-building approaches Reducing defensiveness and shame Active listening and questioning strategies Understanding continued engagement with perpetrators Implications for investigations and case strategy Impact on victim participation</td></tr>
<tr><td>11:05 AM – 11:50 AM</td><td></td><td>Lunch (On your own)</td></tr>
<tr><td>11:50 AM – 12:35 PM</td><td> Andy Mao (co-moderator), JD, National Elder Justice Coordinator, Deputy Director in the Civil Fraud Section, U.S. Department of Justice Chantelle Smith (co-moderator), JD, Prosecutor Programs Lead, Consultant to U.S. Department of Justice Elder Justice Initiative </td><td> Ask the Experts: Your Toughest Cases & Questions Conference Room
Attendees may bring their lunch into the Conference Room. Throughout the Summit, attendees are invited to submit challenging case scenarios, prosecution questions, and practical issues encountered in elder abuse cases. During this interactive session, a multidisciplinary panel of faculty will respond to selected questions and share their perspectives, approaches, and lessons learned from their respective fields. Drawing on expertise in prosecution, decision-making capacity, undue influence, financial exploitation, guardianship and power of attorney abuse, multidisciplinary collaboration, and victim-centered practice, panelists will discuss real-world challenges and offer practical insights for addressing complex cases. Designed to be audience-driven and interactive, this session provides an opportunity to explore difficult issues, compare approaches, and engage directly with faculty on the challenges encountered in elder abuse investigations and prosecutions. </td></tr>
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TIME	SPEAKERS	SESSION TITLE & ABSTRACT
12:35 PM – 12:45 PM		**Networking Break**
12:45 PM – 1:55 PM	**Chantelle Smith (moderator)**, JD, Prosecutor Programs Lead, Consultant to U.S. Department of Justice Elder Justice Initiative **Scott Pirrello (discussion facilitator)**, JD, Deputy District Attorney and Head of Elder Abuse Prosecutions, San Diego County District Attorney's Office, CA **Richard Goldberg**, Director, Cyber-Enabled Scam Initiative, Criminal Division, U.S. Department of Justice **Regina Forest**, Supervision Principal Executive, Global Wealth Management At-Risk Person Investigations, Bank of America Company **Carrie Foran Sepulveda**, Vice President, Security Strategy, Navy Federal Credit Union **Laurel Sykes**, Executive Vice President, Chief Risk Officer, American Riviera Bank **Brady Finta**, Founder and CEO, National Elder Fraud Coordination Center	**From Referral to Prosecution: Building Stronger Elder Fraud & Financial Exploitation Cases** Elder fraud and financial exploitation cases often stall because critical information is not shared, referrals are delayed, requests for information go unanswered, and opportunities for timely action are missed. This session will bring together prosecutors, financial institutions, and federal partners to examine why cases continue to stall despite the availability of information, resources, and investigative tools—and explore practical strategies for moving cases from referral to investigation to prosecution. • What information can be shared—and when • Delays in referrals, records requests, and investigations • Elder fraud and financial exploitation cases involving multiple jurisdictions • Hold and delay laws and their impact on investigations • Building effective relationships before a case arises • Using available tools and resources more effectively • Practical strategies for moving cases forward
1:55 PM – 2:00 PM	**Andy Mao**, JD, National Elder Justice Coordinator, Deputy Director in the Civil Fraud Section, U.S. Department of Justice	**Closing Session — Key Takeaways & Next Steps**

Agenda is subject to change.